

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00688 010532Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ORM-02 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 MCT-01 /078 W

-----010536Z 017311 /23

R 310615Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2311

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0688

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PP ID

SUBJ: BORDER PROBLEMS CONTINUE

REF: PORT MORESBY 0681

1. CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION EXISTS OVER WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PNG/INDONESIAN BORDER AREAS. GPNG SOURCES HAVE BECOME VERY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS BORDER MATTERS, AND WE UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TO STOP TALKING.

2. A SECOND CROSSING OF IRIANESE REFUGEES (ABOUT 200) INTO WESTERN PROVINCE NEAR VILLAGE OF SUKI BRINGING TOTAL TO 700 IS REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE. GPNG IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO GET THEM TO RETURN TO IRIAN JAYA, OR AT LEAST MOVE OUT OF CAMPS AROUND SUKI INTO PNG BUSH. UNDP RESREP UNWIN (UK SUBJECT) HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN INSTRUCTED BY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN GENEVA TO GET IN TOUCH WITH REFUGEES. HE CHARTERED SMALL PLANE IN ATTEMPT TO DO SO, BUT WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00688 010532Z

SUKI. HE IS MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TODAY. PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO SEE REFUGEES.

3. PAUL LANGRO, MP FROM BORDER AREA AND DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION, AND KNOWN SYMPATHIZER OF IRIANESE CAUSE, HAS CALLED UPON GPNG TO LET REFUGEES STAY IN PNG. ALSO CALLED FOR UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO WORK

WITH GPNG ON THIS PROBLEM. HIS APPEAL WILL BE POLITICALLY POPULAR IN HIS DISTRICT.

4. PRESS REPROATED THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS CROSSED BORDER IN TO PNG LAST WEEK LOOKING FOR IRIANESE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, AND SHOT AND KILLED PNG CITIZEN ON PNG SOIL DURING CHASE. ACCORDING TO DON HOOK, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION REP IN PORT MORESBY, DEAD MAN WAS ACTIVE IN IRIANESE PROTEST ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND PRIME MINISTER SOMARE HAD NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND WHEN HE RETURNED TO PORT MORESBY FROM A CAMPAIGN TRIP HE FOUND A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE BORDER PROBLEMS, CONFLICTING STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND NO ONE IN CHARGE. PM WAS SCHEDULED TO HAVE PRESS CONFERENCE TUESDAY, BUT HAS POSTPONED IT UNTIL WEDNESDAY, PRESUMABLY TO GIVE HIM TIME ENOUGH TO FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOMARE HAS TO LEAVE ON FRIDAY TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN LONDON, AS HE IS NEEDED IN PORT MORESBY. FONMIN KIKI WILL BE HANDLING PROBLEM IN SOMARE'S ABSENCE, AND POSITIONS HE MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO TAKE COULD HURT HIS CAMPAIGN FOR REELECTION.

6. GPNG IS IN AWKWARD POSITION. IT HAS BEEN PRIVATELY CRITICAL OF INDONESIANS FOR HANDLING OF IRIANESE PROBLEMS, BUT IS LEAVING ITSELF OPEN FOR CRITICISM BY TRYING TO PERSUADE IRIANESE REFUGEES TO RETURN, AND ESPECIALLY FOR DENYING REPRESENTATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 00688 010532Z

OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER REFUGEES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM. OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTM00688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0501
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977052/aaaaabnv.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e062498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT MORESBY 681
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2377277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORDER PROBLEMS CONTINUE
TAGS: PINS, PP, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e062498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009